AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Amended) A computer implemented method for task execution based on dialog-based communication with a communication service, comprising:

    receiving dialog from a user, the dialog being directed to
        a ~~specialized~~ <u>simulated</u> entity;

    analyzing the dialog to identify a command; ~~and~~

    performing a task on the user's behalf based on the
        command~~.~~<u>; and</u>

    <u>determining whether the user is authorized to utilize the</u>
        <u>application necessary to complete the task, and</u>
        <u>performing the task only if the user is authorized.</u>

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the dialog to identify a command comprises analyzing the dialog to determine which of a variety of applications is necessary to complete the task.

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Amended) The method of claim ~~3~~ <u>1,</u> further comprising presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized when the user is not authorized to utilize the application necessary to complete the task.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized comprises presenting the user with an opportunity to purchase access.

6.   (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising utilizing the ~~specialized~~ <u>simulated</u> entity to participate in

dialog interaction with the user to guide the user in the production of said dialog.

7.   (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein utilizing the ~~specialized~~ simulated entity to participate in dialog interaction with the user comprises:

    presenting the user with a plurality of choices; and

    receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality of choices.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the selection of one of the plurality of choices.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to a parameter listed in a profile associated with the user.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to a preference associated with the user.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the preference is set by the user.

12.   (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the preference is automatically set based on a history of user interactions with the ~~specialized~~ simulated entity.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising determining a geographic location of a device with which the user is communicating with the communication service.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the geographic location.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is an instant message communication service, and wherein receiving dialog from the user comprises receiving instant message dialog.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the dialog is directed to a specialized buddy appearing on an instant messaging buddy list associated with the user.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is a text messaging communication service, and wherein receiving dialog from the user comprises receiving text messaging dialog.

18. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is an email transport service, and wherein receiving dialog from a user comprises receiving an email addressed to the specialized recipient.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein analyzing the dialog to identify a command comprises parsing a textual content of the email.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication service is an automated telephone system, and wherein receiving dialog from a user comprises receiving speech communication.

21.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein analyzing the dialog to identify a command comprises analyzing the dialog to identify a keyword.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a software application on behalf of the user to perform a task.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises sending an action command to instruct a software application to take action on the user's behalf.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a calendar software application.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein execution of the command is contingent upon a set of predetermined circumstances, and wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task when the predetermined set of circumstances have occurred.

26.   (Amended) A computer implemented method for directing a server, comprising:
      requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based
            communication directed through a communication service
            to a ~~specialized entity.~~ simulated entity; and
      providing information that is demonstrative of an existence
            or lack of authorization to use a service necessary to
            complete the task.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises transmitting a command to access one of a plurality of applications.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises selecting one of a plurality of choices presented through a user interface associated with the communication service.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the task is tailored to the selected one of the plurality of choices.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising:
      configuring a user profile; and
      wherein requesting performance of a task comprises
            requesting performance of a task tailored to a
            parameter listed in the user profile.

31.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting performance of a task tailored to a user preference.

32.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein requesting performance of a task tailored to a user preference comprises requesting performance of a task tailored to a preference set by the user.

33.   (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein requesting performance of a task tailored to a user preference comprises requesting performance of a task tailored to a preference that is automatically set based on a history of user interactions.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity comprises requesting performance of a task by way of instant messaging communication directed through an instant messaging service.

35. (Amended) The method of claim 34, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through an instant messaging communication service to a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity comprises requesting performance through the instant messaging service to a specialized buddy appearing on an instant messaging buddy list.

36. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity comprises requesting performance of a task by way of text messaging dialog directed through a text messaging communication service.

37. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity comprises requesting performance of a task by way of an email message addressed to the ~~specialized~~ simulated entity and directed through an email transport service.

38. (Amended) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task by way of dialog-based communication directed through a communication service to a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity comprises requesting performance of a task by

way of telephone dialog directed through an automated telephone system.

39.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting that a software application be accessed to perform a task on behalf of a user.

40.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting that an action command be forwarded to instruct a software application to take action on behalf of a user.

41.   (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein requesting performance of a task comprises requesting performance of a task contingent upon a set of predetermined circumstances, wherein performance of the task happens when the predetermined set of circumstances have occurred.

42.   (Amended) A client-server system that enables a user to initiate task-execution through dialog-based communication with a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity, comprising:

>   a server having a communication service provider implemented thereon;
>   a client device configured to enable the user to utilize dialog-based communication to interact with a ~~specialized~~ simulated entity through the communication service provider, the communication service provider being configured to support the recognition and execution of a command communicated through the dialog-based communication with the ~~specialized~~ simulated entity, the command being a direction to perform a task on the user's behalf, and the

<u>communication service provider being further</u>

<u>configured to present an option to extend access to a</u>

<u>service necessary to complete the task.</u>

43.   (Original) The system of claim 42, wherein the recognition

and execution of a command comprises determining which of a

variety of applications is necessary to complete the task on the

user's behalf.

44.   (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the communication

service provider is further configured to utilize the

~~specialized~~ <u>simulated</u> entity to participate in dialog

interaction with the user to guide the user towards a submission

of the command.

45.   (Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein utilizing the

~~specialized~~ <u>simulated</u> entity to participate in dialog

interaction with the user comprises:

      presenting the user with a plurality of choices; and

      receiving from the user a selection of one of the plurality

          of choices.

46.   (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein performing a

task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored

to the selection of one of the plurality of choices.

47.   (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein performing a

task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored

to a preference associated with the user.

48. (Original) The method of claim 47, wherein the preference is set by the user.

49. (Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the preference is automatically set based on a history of user interactions with the ~~specialized~~ <u>simulated</u> entity.

50. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the client device further comprises a system for determining a geographic location of the client device.

51. (Original) The method of claim 50, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises performing a task tailored to the geographic location.

52. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is an instant message communication service, and wherein the dialog-based communication is instant messaging communication.

53. (Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the ~~specialized~~ <u>simulated</u> entity is a specialized buddy appearing on an instant messaging buddy list associated with the user.

54. (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is a text messaging communication service, and wherein the dialog-based communication is text messaging communication.

55. (Amended) The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is an email transport service, and wherein the

dialog-based communication is an email addressed to the ~~specialized~~ simulated entity.

56.   (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein the communication service provider is an automated telephone system, and wherein the dialog-based communication is telephone communication.

57.   (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a software application on behalf of the user to perform a task.

58.   (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises sending an action command to instruct a software application to take action on the user's behalf.

59.   (Original) The method of claim 42, wherein performing a task on the user's behalf comprises interfacing with a calendar software application.

60.   (New) The method of claim 4, wherein presenting the user with an opportunity to become authorized comprises presenting the user with an opportunity to accept free access.